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DIARY NOTES

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DD/S



19 September 1958


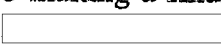
1. At the Deputies' Meeting:

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a. Mr. Kirkpatrick announced that he would be going to  sometime soon. I indicated that I planned to make a trip down there shortly after 1 November, which is the date we officially take over, and it was agreed that we would combine our visits to this site.

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b. I reported that after further examination of the bids for the Excavation and Foundation Contract the architects, Harrison & Abramovitz, the Public Buildings Service, and the Building Planning Staff had concluded that we should go ahead and award the Contract to the low bidder. General Cabell said that  had some reservations about one member of this firm and asked me to check it out before making a final decision. (Since I had not heard of this I checked it with  who said that the information was correct but that he, representatives of our Office of Security, and the Public Buildings Service felt that there were not sufficient grounds for denying the firm a contract. I asked him to prepare a memorandum to me along these lines.)

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c. I also discussed the letter from Mr. Stans, Director of the Budget, asking for a two per cent reduction in our personnel strength during this Fiscal Year and recommended that we present our budget exactly as it had been approved by the Director prior to his departure. While General Cabell expressed the hope that we could find some element which could be reduced by two per cent no specific suggestions were made as to how this could be done, and it was my understanding that we should go ahead and put in our budget in accordance with my recommendation.

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2. Talked to George Carey about  and suggested that he call Mr. Burriss of the Department of State and draft a cable  if he felt that this was in order.

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3. Also at the Deputies' Meeting:

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a. There was a discussion concerning a letter which Mr. Kirkpatrick had suggested be sent to Congressman Sikes. It was decided that we would not send the letter; however, it was unanimously agreed that we should try in some way to convert the Congressman in view of his apparent hostility to CIA and the probability of his eventually being put on one of our committees.

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4. Upon arriving at the office I found a long handwritten, personal letter from Matt Baird concerning my instructions to him that letters to the speakers invited to address the JOTs in December should be prepared for General Cabell's signature. His nose was quite far out of joint; however, I talked to him later in the day and explained General Cabell's decision that this whole thing should be held up until the Director returned. I also told him that I thought that through his letter and other actions concerning this matter he was making a mountain out of a molehill and that my instructions to him were based upon two considerations: first, I thought that if we were going to invite speakers of this level it should be done by the Director; and, second, it was my honest belief that this was the way the Director would want it done. While his feelings are still quite hurt I think that he understands the situation. He requested permission to withdraw his letter, and I, of course, returned it to him on the spot. In this connection, one letter to Senator Humphries has already gone out and after talking to Jack Earman I decided that it was better not to recall it.

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